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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Satisfaction over the announced plans of Levitt and Sons, Inc. to admit Negroes to its housing development in Burlington County was expressed yesterday in a statement (Monday, March 28, 1960) by officers of the New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

The Committee stated that it was encouraged by indications that its efforts to achieve fair housing practices in Levittown, N. J., following William Levitt's announcement on July 1, 1958 that his project would be "all white", were showing signs of success. While it regretted the Levitt decision to continue the pending litigation challenging the validity of the State Law, and his continuing to exclude the two Negro families for whom it has supplied counsel, it expressed its gratification with Levitt's about-face.

The full statement as issued by Dr. Irvine L. R. Kerrison, chairman, is as follows:

"The New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing welcomes the statement just issued by Levitt and Sons, Inc. announcing plans to admit Negroes to its housing development in Burlington County. We hope that this policy will be put into effect in the near future.

"We are encouraged by William Levitt's about-face in stating that integrated housing is inevitable. The 54 organizations comprising the New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing may justifiably be proud of this evidence that their efforts to seek community betterment in our state are showing signs of success.

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"It is a matter of some regret that the Levitt Company intends to continue the pending litigation challenging the validity of the State Law that prohibits racial and religious discrimination in such projects as Levittown. Yet we nevertheless believe that any step toward removing the barrier to non-whites in this 16,000 home community will be an important contribution to ending the disgrace of racial inequality that is under attack all over the world.

"The Levitt company statement leaves much in doubt. All civic groups will wait eagerly to see what it will mean in actual practice. Meanwhile, they will continue to hope that the Levitt company will abandon its challenge of the validity of the New Jersey statute, which has been upheld by the New Jersey Supreme Court. There can be no justification for Levitt's announced intention to continue to exclude the two Negro families that have sought entrance to Levittown since its houses were first put on sale in 1958."

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